

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,861

Examiner

Nam T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MAKAMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 5/18/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 15-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/29/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other EAST search.


SON DINH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 5/18/07 has been entered.

2. Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-13 and 15-22 are pending in the application.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 1-13 and 15-22 are allowed. Claims 1 and 15 are the independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fail to teach or suggest a semiconductor memory device, in combination with other limitations, wherein a first memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a second memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a third memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a fourth memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a first memory cell array group including the first memory cell array and the second memory cell array; and a second memory cell array group including the third memory cell array and the fourth memory cell array, wherein the first memory cell array, the second memory cell array, the third memory cell array and the fourth memory cell array are different from one another, a first Pass/Fail signal indicative of success or failure of an operation is outputted in accordance with each of the first memory cell array group and the second memory cell array group as recited in the independent claim 1; or

A first memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a second memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a third memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a fourth memory cell array included in the plurality of memory cell arrays; a first memory cell array group including the first memory cell array and the second memory cell array; and a second memory cell array group including the third memory cell array and the fourth memory cell array, wherein the first memory cell array, the second memory cell array, the third memory cell array and the fourth memory cell array are different from one another, and first Pass/Fail signals, each of which indicates success or failure of an operation of a respective one of the first memory cell array group and the second memory cell array group, are outputted as recited in the independent claim 15.

Conclusion

4. The following prior art, which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure although not relied upon, includes:

Isobe (US. Pat. No. 5,034,928) discloses a semiconductor memory device having a matrix cell array similar to that of the present application, but fail to disclose the claimed limitations as described above.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1878. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nam T Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2824

7/12/07



SON DINH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER